

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00038] of the specification with the following paragraph:

[0038] Referring to Fig. 4, a block diagram illustrating the allocation of containers to suppliers is shown. Allocation of containers is based on actual part requirements. The manufacturer uses its production schedule to determine its need for parts over a given time period (e.g., for a week). Part supply orders are transmitted to suppliers based on the manufacturer's production schedule so that the manufacturer receives the parts that are required to ~~the~~ meet its production needs. Allocation of containers to suppliers is based on order system data 198 regarding the parts that have been ordered from each supplier according to the manufacturer's production schedule.